



APPROVED 03-09-04
KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2004

EXCHANGE BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Michael Haan (awaiting Executive's appointment), Howard Miller, Helen Nilon, Jim Nobles, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling, Gwendolyn Williams

Members Absent: Joshua Freed (awaiting Council confirmation—excused), Jack Fuller (excused), Shauna Cheney (leave of absence), Melody Cecilia James (awaiting Executive appointment -excused), Freda Monroe (unexcused), Clifford Thurston (leave of absence)

Guests Present: Orisade Awodola (board applicant), Linda Brown (KCASAAB), Alberto Gallego (board applicant), Frank Jose (NAMI-Greater Seattle), Pam Pratt (board applicant), Silvia Singer (VCCC)

Staff Present: Steve Collins, Marla Hoffman, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Howard Miller convened the meeting at 4:42 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. MINUTES

Helen Nilon noted the following corrections on the January 15, 2004 meeting minutes: On page one, under "Members Absent", indicate that Melody Cecilia James is awaiting Executive appointment. On page two, Section III-A, first paragraph, third line, change executive session to Nominations Committee. Page three, Section IV-A, change 2004 to 2003 for the Legislative Forum. Page five, Section V-E, second paragraph, third line, the correct figure for Crisis Triage Unit is 13, not 113. Strike the statement in the same paragraph, line seven, regarding hospitalization and suicide. Add Section V-F, "no other languages available, including TTY."

Eleanor Owen made a motion that was seconded by Helen Nilon to approve the January 15, 2004, meeting minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Request for Leave of Absence

Melody Cecilia James has requested a leave of absence from January to March, 2004, due to a scheduling conflict with her classes this quarter.

Eleanor Owen made a motion, which was seconded by Michael Haan, to approve Melody' request. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Meeting Content

The issue brought up at the December 9, 2003, board meeting regarding meeting content was revisited. Howard Miller asked Eleanor Owen to re-state her position on this issue. Eleanor stated that she brought up this issue because seemingly a great deal of time in the meeting was spent discussing process, e.g., bylaws as opposed to dealing with actual functioning of the RSN system. Eleanor explained that she understands the need to clarify policies, amend bylaws, and discuss board vacancies, and other "housekeeping" matters, but these should take a relatively small amount of time as compared with RSN and "system" issues that require in-depth discussion and action. After further discussion, it was agreed that the board has a responsibility to consider and resolve all of these issues and therefore will continue to operate as in the past.

C. Introduction of Orisade Awodola and Alberto Gallego

Orisade Awodola stated that she is a psychology student and will graduate in June, 2004. She then plans to pursue a doctoral degree in clinical psychology. Her interest is in creating an environment that culturally empowers others through a cultural healing approach.

Eleanor Owen asked her if she has any specific idea where she could best contribute to the board. Orisade would like to be a member of the recovery committee.

Alberto Gallego introduced himself as an advocate for the Hispanic community since 1980. Alberto has a degree in psychology, with a minor in biochemistry from Habana University. He stated that he is interested in bringing his knowledge about mental illness to the board. His goal is for consumers to be independent and to provide them with needed social skills.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy & Public Affairs Committee

Eleanor Owen reported that at the last meeting of the committee, members evaluated the November 18, 2003, legislative forum. There was a discussion on whether to hold a forum next year. The group decided to do so and conduct an intensive evaluation after the event.

Ron Sterling would like the Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee to send out information to the board on committee business, particularly legislative bills, as quickly as possible because status of bills could change over time.

Howard Miller reported that the Mental Health Advisory Board and the Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board wrote a joint letter in support of the parity bill, which Eleanor Owen personally delivered to legislators. Frank Jose stated that the parity bill will be considered in executive session before the Appropriations Committee this evening. We will know tomorrow if the bill has been passed by the committee.

Helen Nilon suggested developing different strategies while the legislature is not in session. In addition, Linda Brown suggested that the mental health board and chemical dependency board take the initiative to connect with King County Council members to bring up legislative issues and other concerns of the two boards.

B. Nominations Update

Appointment packets for Michael Haan and Melody Cecilia James have been sent to the King County Executive's Office. Rhoda Naguit will follow up on the status of their appointments this week.

Joshua Freed is scheduled to appear on March 18th before the Law, Justice, and Human Services Committee for his board appointment interview.

The newest board applicant, Carolann Freedman, will be interviewed by the Nominations Committee prior to the regular board meeting on March 9, 2004, followed immediately by an executive session of the entire board for a removal hearing on Freda Monroe.

C. Quality Council

Ron Sterling has been working with various King County NAMI chapters in developing forums designed to gather feedback on the publicly funded mental health system. The first forum will be held on March 16, 2004, for NAMI-Greater Seattle, followed by NAMI-South King County on April 20, 2004, at Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation.

Ron has met with Mike Rynas and Helen Nilon to schedule an educational forum for NAMI-Eastside. To date, it is still to be finalized. The tentative date is some time in May. Helen stated that before the date is firmed up, they would like to know the target audience for this forum.

A report from the newly created Recovery Committee will be added to the meeting agenda for the board beginning March 9, 2004. The Recovery Committee will meet on Feb. 24 at 2pm at 906 East Shelby in Seattle. If interested in attending, call Eleanor Owen at (206) 227-4661.

V. LONGITUDINAL STUDY – Marla Hoffman, MHCADSD Statistician

Marla Hoffman summarized her longitudinal profile of the King County Mental Health Plan. The profile tracks persons in the outpatient tier or are enrolled in supervised living or long-term rehabilitation programs during the first six years of the Prepaid Health Plan. Findings include:

- The rate of exit from the system slows over time. Overall, the longer a client has been in the system, the more likely he/she remains there.
- The single period of time when clients are most likely to exit the system is at the end of their first benefit.
- Overall, about half of clients who could renew for a second benefit, did renew.

The Mental Health Board discussed topics relating to the study, and offered several suggestions for future study. Of particular interest were exit and return clients - persons who leave treatment for an extended period of time (months, years) and subsequently return. Other issues of interest to the board included follow-up of exited clients, and cost-shifting between the criminal justice system and the mental health system. Although MHCADS does not have the authority to collect follow-up data on exited clients, all issues raised by the board were noted by Marla. She was particularly interested in the board's ideas on the exit/return phenomenon, and suggestions as to how to better explore its impact on length-of-stay in the system.

Linda Brown commended Marla for putting together an informative document.

VI. STAFF REPORT – Jean Robertson

A. Telesage Outcome Survey

The Telesage Outcome Project is proceeding. Trainings were done in January, 2004. Jean provided a copy of the Washington State Consumer Outcome surveys to the board. The outcome survey for adults is still being revised. These outcome surveys will be implemented as soon as revisions are completed. Making surveys available in other languages and for TTY is being considered. No timeline has been set for this to happen. Since the survey is only available in Spanish and English, the majority of Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) clients will not be able to participate in the survey at this time. The Spanish interpretation is only available by phone.

B. Prevalence Study

Amnon Shoenfeld, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division Director, has met with legislators in Olympia regarding the prevalence study. He is working hard to get the support of legislators to change the mental health funding formula during current session.

C. DVR Funding Update

The Division has invested in developing the regional employment centers. DVR funding for the employment service program is running out in spite of DVR's original commitment to serving mentally ill clients. The Division is seeking other funding sources to continue the program. A suggestion was made to make an appeal to the King County Council to continue funding the program.

Eleanor made a motion, which was seconded by Helen Nilon, that the board send a letter to the King County Council in support of continued funding of the program.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

Liaison reports were deferred to the March meeting due to time constraint.

VIII. BOARD AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

Pam Pratt requested that the board take action on her nomination.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Howard Miller
Board Chair